



Verizon's "Team Energy" Sets World-Class Energy Performance Examples

Verizon Communications, formed by the merger of Bell Atlantic and GTE, is a leader not only in the telecommunications industry but also a leader in utilizing energy-efficient technologies. Verizon benchmarks its buildings, upgrades its less efficient equipment, and communicates successes in energy efficiency both internally and externally. This outstanding commitment to excellence in energy performance led Verizon to being named a 2001 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year. Verizon has already benchmarked approximately 50 percent of its administrative buildings and 16 buildings have qualified for the ENERGY STAR label for excellence in energy performance to date. Current plans to begin benchmarking all of the former GTE territories in the West will undoubtedly lead to additional labels and uncover valuable energy performance investment opportunities.



Verizon's Team Energy pictured with Christine Todd Whitman at the ENERGY STAR Awards program.

In the year 2000, hundreds of Verizon corporate real estate employees were involved in implementing over 14,000 energy reduction projects in over 60% of the company's facilities. These projects include lighting upgrades, installation of energy efficient motors and variable frequency drive fans, and other projects. **These retrofits have resulted in projected annual savings of \$20 million.** Verizon uses a sophisticated, web-based data system to accurately manage and forecast its energy use. Not only is Verizon contributing to smart energy use, but the company is saving money on utility bills at the same time!

Behind Verizon's sustained success during the past ten years as an ENERGY STAR partner, is *Team Energy*, a group of dedicated management employees concentrating on energy systems, data management, communications, guidelines, and the use of "green" technology. Team Energy interacts with other department heads across the company who meet quarterly as the Verizon Energy Board of Directors. This group discusses corporate energy strategy including partnerships with external organizations, energy performance issues, interdepartmental opportunities, and evaluates new methods for reducing energy use.

"We are thrilled to be an ENERGY STAR Partner," says Rod Sluyter, Director of Verizon's energy team. "The ENERGY STAR benchmarking tool helps us prioritize the energy performance of our administrative buildings, and from this we can identify and attack the areas that offer the greatest financial return. By targeting energy performance, Verizon is making measurable strides in pollution reduction as well as financial responsibility."

A key factor to Verizon's success has been the internal energy communications program, which involves employees in the ENERGY STAR effort. These efforts have been focused on highlighting the link between energy consumption and its impact on the environment. Verizon has begun a program to implement and evaluate fuel cell technology in large, medium, and small locations and studying other green fuel technologies.

With long-term commitment to considering energy in decision making, a progressive management structure, and the willingness to make sound energy investments, Verizon has set a world class example of what a large corporation can achieve through energy performance.



Verizon's Hidden Ridge Facility